



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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### PSC ESTABLISHES CASE TO STUDY VOICE OVER INTERNET

Jefferson City (February 4, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has established a case designed to further the Commission's knowledge of issues relating to voice over the Internet.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has indicated that it will soon issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology. VoIP technology is a relatively new technology and there are indications that VoIP related services may be on the verge of being mass-marketed to the general public.

The Commission's order states: "It is expected that the FCC's rulemaking will have an impact on telecommunications service in Missouri. The Commission will open this case to further its knowledge of VoIP technology and to assist in its preparation of comments to the FCC."

The Missouri Public Service Commission is aware of a U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota decision that held that the broadband IP telephony provided by Vonage Holdings Corporation is an information service and therefore not subject to state regulation. The Missouri PSC noted in its order establishing this case that: "The opening of this case should not be read as indicating a Commission opinion for or against the lawfulness of state regulation of VoIP telephony."

Any party interested in participating in this case should file a notice of participation with the Missouri Public Service Commission no later than **February 10, 2004**. That notice should be sent to the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

As part of the Commission's decision to open this case, it has instructed the PSC Staff to schedule and facilitate a workshop regarding VoIP technology. A report from that workshop is to be filed with the Commission no later than March 15, 2004. The report is expected to address: the different ways VoIP technology is used in the marketplace, and what, if any, significance widespread deployment of VoIP technology may have on telecommunications service in Missouri. The parties are also expected to address to what extent, if any, VoIP technologies may uniquely affect Missouri.

The Commission has also directed the PSC Staff to schedule and facilitate a roundtable on the subject. In addition, the PSC Staff is to maintain information regarding this case on the Commission's website.

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